

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON FISH AND GAME

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN MIKE SPRAGUE**, on February 1, 2001 at 3 P.M., in Room 422 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Mike Sprague, Chairman (R)
Sen. Jack Wells, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Al Bishop (R)
Sen. Edward Butcher (R)
Sen. William Crismore (R)
Sen. Pete Ekegren (R)
Sen. Jon Ellingson (D)
Sen. Eve Franklin (D)
Sen. Debbie Shea (D)
Sen. Jon Tester (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Bill Tash (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Roberta Opel, Committee Secretary
Mary Vandembosch, Legislative Branch

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: HB 132, HB 99; 1/29/2001
Executive Action: HB 132, HB 99, SB 285

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 132

Motion: SEN. JACK WELLS MOVED TO AMEND SB 132, (SB028501.amv).

Discussion:

Mary Vandembosch told the committee the amendments require a boating survey to determine who pays boating fees.

SEN. JACK WELLS remarked that this funding mechanism was currently in place.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously, 10-0.

Motion/Vote: SEN. WELLS MOVED SB 13 DO PASS AS AMENDED. The motion carried unanimously, 10-0.

HEARING ON HB 99

Sponsor: REP. RONALD DEVLIN, HD 3, Terry

Proponents: Jean Johnson, MT. Outfitter's & Guides Association
Jeff Hagener, Director, Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP)

Opponents: None

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. RONALD DEVLIN, HD 3, Terry testified HB 99 was a straightforward bill implemented to separate Deer A hunting tags from resident combination tags.

Proponents' Testimony:

Jean Johnson, MOGA, clarified the bill was drafted to deal with a lack of deer to fill game tags.

Jeff Hagener, Director, FWP, submitted written testimony in support of the bill. **EXHIBIT(fis26a01)**

Opponents' Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

None

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. DEVLIN closed by stating the enforcement option is left to the FWP Commission for game management.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 99

Motion/Vote: SEN. JON TESTER MOVED HB 99 BE CONCURRED IN. The motion carried unanimously, 10-1.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 285

Motion/Vote: SEN, MIKE SPRAGUE MOVED HB 285 BE CONCURRED IN.

Motion: SEN. TESTER MOVED TO AMEND HB 285, (SB028501.amv).
EXHIBIT(fis26a02)

Vote: SEN. TESTER MOVED HB 285 BB CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.
The motion carried, 9-1, with SEN. WELLS voting "no."

Discussion:

SEN. SPRAGUE told the committee there are various ways to obtain enforcement money for the boat decal. This enforcement plan was removed by prior legislation, he commented.

Doug Monger, Administrator, FWP, Parks Division, told the committee the original figure was to provide money for the program with sideboards to assist the agency in program implementation. All other decals are currently set at \$5 while the boating decal is only \$2.50, he explained.

SEN. SPRAGUE asked committee members if there was a need for a committee bill. He questioned if there was need for a wake management portion within the bill.

Mr. Monger answered that under current statute adopted during the 1999 legislative session, all lakes under 3500 were considered no-wake lakes such as Holter, Hauser and Canon Ferry Lake.

Mr. Monger explained FWP would be hiring seasonal, non-game warden employees assigned to a specific body of water who would patrol on the water.

SEN. WELLS asked how many enforcement employees there were currently.

Mr. Monger replied he was unsure of the exact numbers.

SEN. WELLS explained that he was opposed to raising the decal fee but if the fee increase would save someone's life, he would not be as opposed.

Mr. Monger noted there are approximately ten to twelve additional seasonal positions with four FTE's.

SEN. TESTER asked how these officers were distributed throughout the state.

Mr. Monger said he would obtain this base information for the committee.

Discussion:

Mr. Monger told the committee the department would provide a video of the Headwaters State Park to assist the committee in their understanding of SB 286.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:08 P.M.

SEN. MIKE SPRAGUE, Chairman

ROBERTA OPEL, Secretary

MS/RO

EXHIBIT (fis26aad)